

Annual Report April 2008 – March 2009

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Chair's Comments

This Annual Report provides an overview of the work of EBCDA for the period April 2008 – March 2009. During the 12 month period it has been both an exciting and challenging time for the Agency. Fundamental to our role is targeting the specific needs of the community sector and acting as catalyst and advocate in supporting and developing the sector in East Belfast so that it can continue to exist. To do this we rely on the support of our members and partners and the interests they represent. You can see from the sections within this Annual Report the extensive and comprehensive nature of the work we have been involved in.

The ever changing environment for the Community Sector has of course brought its challenges for us and will continue to do so in the coming years, but we will meet these challenges with confidence and action. Our pursuit of developing a network centre for the sector in East Belfast, in the old Templemore Avenue School, has taken another few steps forward, but it has been a long process, although we are committed to making this a reality for East Belfast and we are pleased to have the economic appraisal completed for this. The staff team changed during the period when Justine left us at the end of February and Sonia left at the end of March. Overall we have a highly skilled and committed staff team and we are grateful for their continued commitment and our newly recruited staff will add more diversity to the team.

The time, effort and commitment our board members, who are all volunteers, give to the agency is very much appreciated. As ever, we are extremely grateful to our funders BRO/DSD, VCU/DSD, Investing for Health, Belfast City Council, CFNI, Belfast Health Trust and East Belfast Partnership, without whom we could not do our work.

Cliff Kennedy – Chair

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Director's Report

Members' Visits

During the 2008/2009 period we completed 40 visits to our members. This allowed us to connect with people and the fantastic work they are doing within the communities in East Belfast. It also allowed us to bring them up-to-date about EBCDA. It was also an opportunity to look at particular things we can support the membership with and help develop, as well as connecting them with other organisations. This was a very simple and inexpensive piece of work and was extremely effective. We also ran a series of seminars for members around the development of community planning, Belfast City Councils SNAP teams and Neighbourhood Renewal.

Connswater Community Greenway

In 2007/2008 EBCDA carried out the community consultations for the Connswater Community Greenway and fed the results of these consultations to the CCG Committee. The project has really taken off in 2008/2009 and we have continued to be involved with them in community engagement and opportunities for volunteering as well as being involved from a community perspective on the CCG committee. The project intends to start work on the ground in early 2010.

Titanic Watch/Titanic Quarter

With the ongoing development of Titanic Quarter, we are involved with Titanic Watch, along with a number of other organisations, which was established in mid 2008 to try and ensure that East Belfast can gain maximum benefit from the Titanic Quarter development. This has resulted in a number of early successes such as the development of an MOU for the £10m allocated from Belfast City Council for the Titanic Signature Project.



Networking Centre

As the Chair already stated in his comments, we have continued to pursue the development of the old Templemore Avenue School into a Network Centre for East Belfast. We spent time meeting with and discussing the Centre development with the MP and our MLA's to ensure their support for the development and to keep them informed. With all projects of this size things take longer than you might expect.

We are pleased to have had the economic appraisal completed and it is now being reviewed by DSD economists. We have also ensured we have the financial details tied down and how the project will be funded with commitments (yet to be fully secured) from DSD, Prince's Regeneration Trust, IFI and BRO. Applications also have to be made to the Heritage Lottery and Environmental & Heritage Service (Historic Building Grant). Whilst we have a number of tenants from the community sector already identified we are keen to complement these with other organisations and have begun conversations with the PSNI in East Belfast and BELB Library Services in relation to relocating Ballymacarrett Library. We hope that these conversations will be developed and fruitful in 2009/2010.

Networking and Advocacy

We also re-launched our website in September 2008 which had 35,000 hits by end of March 2009. Throughout 2008/2009 we represented a view from the sector in East Belfast to the wider Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and other parts of the UK. We also developed and maintained contact with MLAs, Councillors, MP, Belfast City Council, Inner East Forum, E B Partnership, Castlereagh Council, NICVA, Community Development Networks Forum, Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership, CORE Project, DSD, VCU and BRO and we are grateful to them all for both financial and practical support in our work.

Michael Briggs – Director

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Community Support Unit

Support, Advice and Information

Support provided this year included assistance with sourcing, applying for and managing funding, setting up new groups and implementing good governance within organisations. Support and signposting was also provided for new workers and new projects, ensuring that work across East Belfast continues to remain cohesive and that groups are able to make the most of partnership opportunities. The newsletter saw its 24th edition being published in 2009 and has been revised to include regular information from all the EBCDA project staff. It remains a great tool for sharing information and for groups to share their successes. Throughout the year we've also had the pleasure of being involved with numerous projects and supporting one-off pieces of work such as judging the Community Category for the Carrickfergus Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Awards.

Training

Training this year has included First Aid at Work courses and an Introduction to Financial Sustainability. There have been various information sessions held covering topics such as Community Planning, SNAP, the Programme for Government and the effect of the new Charities Legislation on community groups.

Funding Support

The annual Funding Information Evening was held in April 2008 and as usual we had great support from funders such as Lloyds TSB Foundation, Big Lottery Fund and Co-operation Ireland, all of whom provided information, advice and practical tips to those who attended.



As normal, we worked with many individual groups to support them in developing their projects and securing funding through small grants, and along with our Resource and Finance Team, we also supported several groups to work together and apply for the final round of Local Community Fund.

Community Workers' Forum

The Community Workers' Forum continues to provide a valuable networking and peer support function every 6 weeks to community workers and volunteers. Members this year benefited from a residential to Finglas where they met and shared experiences with their peers and also a social event where 20 members took time out to relax with dinner and a show as part of our 'Look After Your Mental Health' theme during Health and Well-being Week. The Forum also enjoyed a tour of the Titanic Dock and Pump House after a meeting which was hosted by NI Science Park.

Community Support Programme

New promotional flyers were devised this year which will ensure that groups continue to be made aware of the support services available from EBCDA. At the end of March 2009 I finished my role as Community Support Manager after 6 years, this will be my last input. I continue to be impressed by the amount of work that both EBCDA and the community groups, who make up its membership, manage to do in a year and the real difference it makes to local people. All the best and keep up the good work in East Belfast!

Sonia Anderson – Community Support Manager



Community Resource and Finance Services

The Resource Department has seen a temporary change of staff in 2008. Barbara Haig (who had been with us for over 15 years) had retired in December 2007 from her post as Receptionist/Administrator, but in October 2008 Marie-Anne went off on maternity leave and Barbara came back to work for us on a part-time basis.

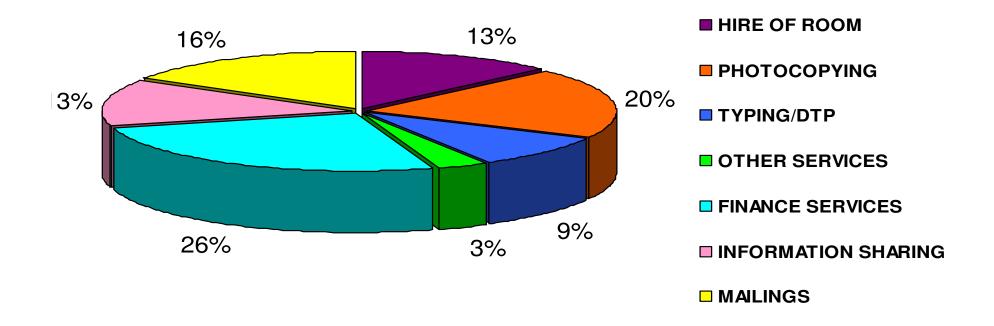
We continue to offer the services of photocopying (including colour copying), typing, collating and binding, laminating and room hire to all community groups. Our Finance Department continues to provide payroll services, independent examinations and finance advice for the sector. At our funding evening in April 2008 we offered financial training and this was taken up by several groups. The main theme of the training was financial procedures, and during the sessions with the groups, we helped them draw up financial policies for their organisations.

Again this year carried out the administration of the Local Community Fund 2008/2009. The same areas were covered this year as the 2007/2008 period and the grants awarded were as follows: Island (SOA 2) £22,192; Sydenham (SOA 1) £20,307; and Bloomfield (SOA 1) £26,000. The development of our fortnightly email bulletins has been an excellent way of getting information quickly to over 300 groups and individuals in East Belfast. Community Resource and Finance Services continue to provide administration and financial management within EBCDA, as well as managing the building and any services related to this.

Kim Briggs – Finance/Office Manager



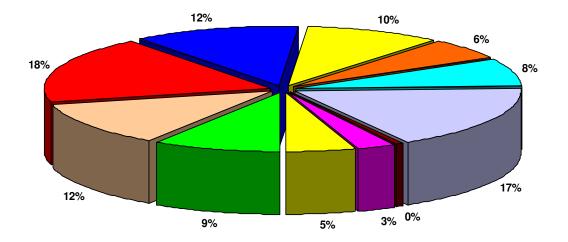
BREAK-DOWN OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND FINANCE SERVICES USED BY GROUPS





FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Agency's total income for 2008/2009 was £517,329 and total expenditure was £521,285. Therefore expenditure exceeded income by £3,956. The following pie charts show where our money came from and how it was spent. A full set of our accounts can be obtained from the offices of EBCDA.



WHERE OUR MONEY CAME FROM

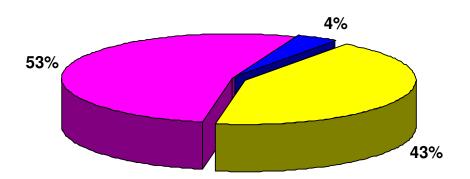
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL £47,741
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR N.I. £61,946
DSD - BELFAST REGENERATION OFFICE £94,223
DSD - AREAS AT RISK £61,758
DSD - COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND £50,560
EHSSB - HEALTH PROMOTION £29,822
EHSSB - INVESTING FOR HEALTH £39,022
EAST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP £89,825
SMALL GRANTS £1,930
CO-OPERATION IRELAND £15,000
SELF-GENERATED AND DONATIONS £25,502

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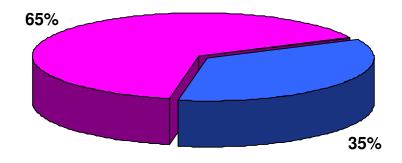
How We Spent Our Money



CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - 76%



SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS - 24%



STAFF COSTS £211,256
 RUNNING COSTS £15,633
 PROJECT COSTS £168,791

STAFF COSTS £82,132
 RUNNING COSTS £43,473

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Health Development & Connections Programme

Strategic Context

The programme fits within the overall health strategy of East Belfast Partnership. During the year we developed a close working relationship with the Health Strategy Manager and Health Strategy Group within East Belfast Partnership.

Health Information Groups, supporting them to develop and launch their action plans. We provided a wide range of health promotion activities in partnership with community organisations and health professionals. We supported a number of Networks to access funding, produce strategic plans and develop promotional material.

Lay Health Information Workers' Network

We supported the Network to move forward by producing a Strategy Document and Action Plan. This provides a sustainable structure for the future of local lay health information groups. Individual neighbourhood action plans also facilitated local groups to tackle issues such as access to health services, smoking cessation and health promotion.

The Wise Men of the East Network

The Network completed six projects, most notably through the CORE Project where a strong relationship has developed with the Men's Health Group from Finglas, Dublin. With the support of East Belfast Partnership, the Networks Business Plan was circulated to key stakeholders. We supported the Network to deliver two initiatives in its plan to give a voice to Men's Health issues and a Good Practice visit to the City Hospital Cancer Centre to reflect on the needs of men to access screening and promote prevention.

The N.I. Regional Healthy Living Centre Alliance

We contributed to the organisation of the Alliance's first regional conference in East Belfast and presented information on the very successful Case Finding in the Community nurse pilot. A number of small joint funding initiatives with the Belfast Network of Healthy Living Centres were successfully achieved. These included Smoking Cessation programmes and a Health and Fitness programme for young people in Avoniel Leisure Centre. A major presentation for funding was undertaken with the International Fund for Ireland.

Survivors of Suicide Group (SOS)

The SOS group have been in existence for a number of years now and EBCDA took on the support role for the group in early 2007. During the period the group have held a conference at Stormont Buildings to raise the awareness of the group and to inform people about the issues for families when they deal with a suicide. They meet on a monthly basis and ensure that people know what support is available. In late 2009 the group will be starting a publicity campaign with booklets and leaflets about the group and its existence, how people can join and how the group can support people in East Belfast.

Men/Women

In January 2009 we had a very well attended Men's Health Evening with Willowfield Parish Association. This included Health MOTs by Chest, Heart & Stroke, and skin scans by Ulster Cancer Foundation. Complementary therapies and Turkish shaves were also available to encourage attendance. A Well-Being Day for Women was organised during the Health and Well-being week. At least 140 women came along to receive information, advice, health checks and learn more about services and support available in the area.

Health & Wellbeing Week

Building on the success of initiatives with older people, therapeutic work, men's MOTs and Ethnic Minority support, the Health Week successfully engaged over 300 people working in co-operation with community organisations at a variety of venues.

Minority Ethnic Health Development

In March 2009 we held a Health Check event for Polish parents in the Micah Centre. Between 15 and 20 parents received a blood pressure, blood sugar and quick cholesterol check. We also ran a 10 week English Language & Health. We worked with East Belfast Ethnic Minority Support Network who constructed their Action Plan and began to take forward their work in East Belfast.

Fit Futures Projects

Fit Futures Health Promotion Roadshow events were held in 5 primary schools in East Belfast and 105 parents attended. 75 parents completed health checks. Children and parents were provided with the opportunity to take healthy breakfasts, drink more water and learn some exercise that they could do at home. Virtually 100% of parents in the evaluation agreed or strongly agreed that the event left them *'better informed to make healthier choices'*.

Alan Houston & Danny McShane – Health Development Workers, and Justine Brown – Health Connections Worker



Volunteer Development Project

Support

We continue to support community groups and projects with the recruitment and management of their volunteers on a day-to-day basis. The numbers of volunteers continues to increase and become more varied - this enables groups to deliver their programmes more effectively. New and different ways of recruiting volunteers has enabled us to offer a wider choice of roles and placements.

Networking

We continue to network with a variety of organisations to help increase the awareness of the project and the services it provides. We have recently made links with the Connswater Community Greenway Project. We also continue to strenghten our links with the two main volunteer supporting agencies, VSB and VDA.

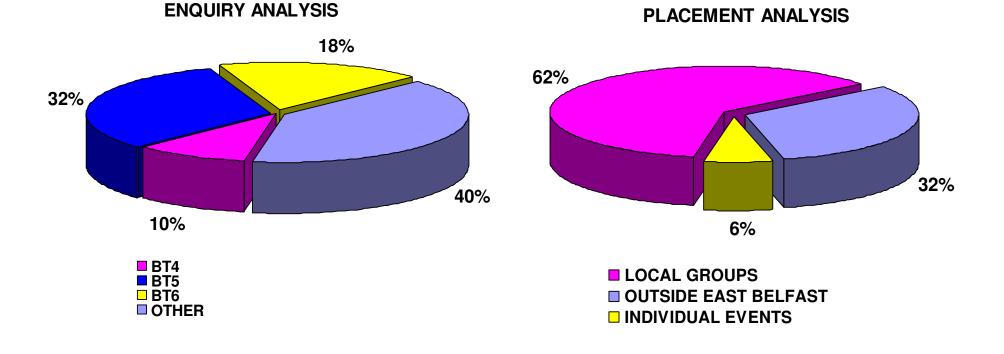
Events and Training

This year we had funding from Awards for All and also the Local Community Fund which has enabled us to deliver training to volunteers on a wide range of topics including communication and conflict management skills. The events this year have been enthusiastically attended by volunteers and their families, who always appreciate their hard work being acknowledged publicly. The events and training are essential to help encourage volunteers to expand their knowledge and also to feel valued and appreciated for the work that they do within the community.

Ian McKee – Volunteer Development Worker



The following pie charts show a breakdown of the areas from which we received enquiries and also a breakdown of where volunteers were placed



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Sydenham Community Support Project

Sydenham Community Partnership (SCP)

The period 2008-09 has been an extremely busy time for the Sydenham Community Partnership (SCP) with many exciting projects, activities and events staged during this period. SCP has forged close working relationships with Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland who have helped us to effect widespread environmental regeneration in the area. SCP has also adopted Sydenham Train Station with work already commenced on re-imaging the Platform in partnership with Northern Ireland Railways and City Airport. The work is been overseen by Palmerston Residents' Association.

SCP has also been involved in several youth initiatives throughout the year including Galway Outdoor Pursuits Trip, Young People's Health fair, Youth Trip to Glasgow, Young Women's Cross-Community Programme, Child Protection Training for Youth Workers, Syds Kids Youth Group re-established and Christmas and Halloween events staged at Inverary Community Centre.

We are also extremely excited about the upcoming George Best Community Cup, a youth football tournament that we envisage will become a major annual event for Sydenham and has attracted many teams from Football League Clubs throughout the UK and Ireland. SCP has also intensified work with Senior Citizens in the area and is currently supporting the KNIGHTS Senior Citizens' Men's Group and has plans to run events this summer for Inverary Fold.

The Partnership has really evolved over the past six months with key stakeholders in the area working more closely together than ever before. This has been largely due to SCP forum bringing people together on a regular basis to discuss issues and ideas within the Sydenham Community.



Local Events for Local People

There have been many highlights this year and I can't possibly begin to do all of them justice so I have chosen just a couple of my personal favourites. In November 2008, Palmerston Residents' Association, St.Brendan's Church, War Years Remembered, EBCDA and Co-operation Ireland staged a Cross-border Remembrance Weekend in Sydenham, with 25 members of the Finglas community from Dublin invited to participate. The event was a huge success and explored the shared history of all Irishmen who gave their lives in the two great wars. Included in the weekend was a War Time History museum and exhibition in the Church Hall attended by over 2,000 people, a trip to the Somme Heritage Centre and RUC Memorial Garden, a concert from Ormeau Orchestra Band, Veterans personal testimonies and the Sunday Remembrance Service itself. The feedback and evaluations from the weekend were excellent and our good friends from Finglas have been involved in further community events as a result.

James Ellis

Another highlight of the year was the visit of James Ellis and his wife to Sydenham to unveil two plaques in his honour, one at his former family home at Park Avenue and the other at Victoria Park Primary School. This was part of our Famous Faces and Local Heritage Trail that we have been working on to increase pride in the area and put Sydenham on the tourist map. James was really delighted and moved by the tribute and enjoyed taking the time out to chat with old friends and neighbours.

Chris Deconnink – Sydenhan Community Support Worker



Full Members 66 in Total

- Archway Youth Club
- Ardcarn Residents
- Ashfield Girls' High School
- Aslan Association
- Ballymac
- Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society
- Ballymacarrett Youth & Community Project
- Ballyoran Old Mill Bowls
- Bloomfield Community Association
- Braniel Over 60s Club
- Carryduff Playcare/Playgroup
- 🔶 CEHT
- Church of Ireland, Ballymacarrett
- Clarawood 50+ Club
- Clarawood Community Association
- Clonduff Community Association
- Community Drug Awareness (The CODA Project)
- Covenant Love Church

- Cregagh Pre-School Playgroup
- Crossroads Project Limited
- Crown Project
- Dundonald Cultural Society
- Dundonald Village Regeneration Group
- East Belfast & Castlereagh Age Concern
- East Belfast Alternatives
- East Belfast Beacon Centre
- East Belfast Churches Forum
- East Belfast Community Focus
- East Belfast Concerned Women's Group
- East Belfast Independent Advice Centre
- East Belfast Mission
- East Belfast Partnership
- East Belfast Talking Newspaper
- Friends of Mullan Mews
- Greenway Women's Group
- Hilltop and Glenluce Care Limited



- Inner East Forum
- Inner East Youth Project
- Lagan Watersports Centre
- Links Women's Group
- Lower Castlereagh Community Group
- Newtownards Road Elim Pentecostal Church
- Newtownards Road Women's Group Ltd
- Oak Partnership
- Oasis Caring in Action
- Oasis Trading
- Old Mill Bowling Club
- PMS & PND Support
- Round Tower Community Projects
- Short Strand Community Forum
- Swann Training Services
- Sydenham Infants' Primary School
- The Academy of Ulster-Scots (Ullans) Ltd
- The Beat Initiative
- The Blind Centre of Northern Ireland
- The Bridge Community Association
- The Centre

- The Forward Group
- The Hopefuls
- The Rivers Community Project
- Tullycarnet Community Forum Ltd
- Walkway Community Association
- Wandsworth Area Residents' Group
- Wandsworth Community Association
- Willowfield Parish Community Association
- Youth Initiatives
- -

Associate Members 87 in Total

- African Community Trust
- Age Concern Northern Ireland
- Avoniel Leisure Centre
- Ballybeen Women's Centre
- Ballymacarett Somme Festival
- Ballyoran Old Tyme Dance & Social Group
- Belfast City Council
- Belfast East Seniors' Forum
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (Community Dev.)
- Belfast Institute (Belfast Metropolitan College)
- Belfast Public Libraries
- Belvoir Thursday Night Club
- Bestcellars Music Collective
- BHSCT Investing for Health
- Belfast Improved Housing
- BRACE (Ballymac Regeneration & Community Enterprise)
- Braniel Primary School
- Bright Lights

- Castlereagh Community Safety Partnership
- Castlereagh Council
- Castlereagh Libraries (SEELB)
- Castlereagh Youth Office
- Clara Park Tenants' & Residents' Association
- Community Association for Belvoir, Milltown & N'breda
- Conflict Transformation Initiative
- Conservation Volunteers
- Cregagh and District Old People's Club
- Cregagh Community Association
- Dundela Football Club
- Dundela Forum Association
- Dundonald Green Belt Association
- Dundonald High School
- East Belfast Anti-Racism
- East Belfast Area Youth Project
- East Belfast Citizens' Advice Bureau
- East Belfast Enterprise
- East Belfast Neighbourhood Office



- East Belfast Prince's Trust Team Programme
- East Belfast Sure Start
- East Belfast Ulster Unionist Advice Centre
- Elmgrove Primary School
- Emmanuel
- Engage With Age
- Equal Lives Action Group
- 🌻 Gae Lairn
- Gems Northern Ireland Ltd
- Gingerbread NI
- Green Action
- Home-Start East Belfast
- Inverary Community Centre
- Knocknagoney Over Sixties Club
- Linenhall Library
- Live By the Word of God Ministry Grace & Mercy Assembly
- Lower Woodstock Community Association
- McMordie Scout Group
- Mersey St Presbyterian Church Mothers & Toddlers Group
- Mountpottinger Methodist Church
- Newtownbreda Women's Institute

- NI Housing Executive East Belfast Office
- NICAS
- NICMA The Childminding Association
- Old Belmont School Preservation Trust
- Orangefield Youth Sports Club
- Playboard
- Police Service Community Safety Team
- Probation Board for NI
- Ravenhill Presbyterian Men's Fellows
- Rubicon
- See-Saw Playgroup
- Silver Liners Club (Megain Memorial Church of the Nazarene)
- St Colmcille's Wednesday Club
- St Mark's Dundela Evergreens
- St Matthew's Guide Unit
- Strand Presbyterian Church
- Strand Primary School
- Strandburn Residents' Association
- Strathearn School
- The Belfast Sydenham Corps of the Salvation Army
- The Bytes Project



- Tor Bank School
- Tuesday Mother & Toddlers
- Tullycarnet Presbyterian Indoor Bowling Club
- Tullycarnet Primary School
- Tullycarnet Yarnspinners
- Ulster People's College
- Willowfield Credit Union
- Youth Justice Agency East Belfast

Board of Directors

- Cliff Kennedy
- Janice Cherry
- Bernie McConnell
- Hon Secretary

Vice-Chair

Hon Treasurer

Chair

- Sammy Douglas
- Rev David Brown
- Rachael Davison
- Rev Mervyn Gibson
- Thomas Lowry-Haggan
- Thomas Sandford
- Des Meredith
- Liz Olson
- 🌻 Sam Lamont
- Joe Watson (Co-Option)
- Beryl Carson (Co-Option)

<u>Staff</u>

- Michael BriggsSonia Anderson
- Kim Briggs
- 🔅 Justine Brown
- Danny McShane
- Alan Houston
- 🜻 Ian McKee
- Chris Deconink
- Jean Higginson
- 🌻 Joanna Loudoun
- Marie Anne McMillan
- 🌻 Barbara Haig

- Director
- Community Support Manager (Until March 2009)
- Finance/Office Manager
- Health Connections Worker
- (Until February 2009)
- Health Development Worker
- Health Development Worker
- Volunteer Development Worker
- Sydenham Community Support Worker
- Payroll/Finance Administrator
- Project Support/Admin
- an Health Project Administrator
 - Project Support/Admin (From September 2008)



<u>Thanks</u>

The Board of Directors and Staff would like to thank the following for

both their financial help and practical assistance during the past year:

- Belfast City Council
- Belfast Health Trust
- BRO South & East Team
- Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
- CORE Project
- DSD Voluntary & Community Unit
- East Belfast Partnership
- Investing for Health (Wellnet)
- Health Promotion Agency

....and of course our thanks to the Board of Directors and Staff for their continued commitment to the community sector in East Belfast



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